

VOLUME 32  
FALL 1995  
NUMBER 4

# 50 Years of Progress

## THE M.C. GILL DOORWAY

*"We try hard enough to make it happen"*

### EASY STREET

By ALAN JANKIN JONES

Lazy Drag



*It Was One Helluva Party!!*

*The 50th Anniversary  
Party Hosts: Gill Family  
Owners—M. C., Stephen,  
Phillip and Debaney*





In photos above: 1. Foreground, left to right, Shahid Quershi and Steve Klestinec, Georgia Pacific; Darlene and Jim Page, M.C. Gill purchasing; Lisa Schultz, Georgia Pacific; and Dave Phillips, Dow Chemical... 2. Cindy and Mike Bruce, CNC Fabrications, United Airlines... 3. Susan and Alan Webb, Buyer, Douglas... 4. Dick and Maggie Bean, one time stockholders of Peerless Plastic Products, Inc... 5. Urs Hauri, Senior Engineer, Swissair, and Jeanette Hauri... 6. Mike Mettenett, Hercules... 7. Steve Nutt, M.C. Gill Composites Chair holder, USC... 8. Nancy and Philip Gill.

# *Our 50th* *THE PARTY WAS*



On September 8, 1995, the M.C. Gill Corporation celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner dance at the Ritz-Carlton Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, California.

## **The Venue, The Menu**

The hotel catered sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, a first course of warm feuilletage of asparagus with Chanterelle cream, an entree choice of roasted chicken breast, Delmonico steak, or Chilean sea bass, and a dessert of three chocolate mousse tart with black raspberry sauce.

## **Let the Festivities Begin!**

Guests started arriving at 6:30 p.m., were met by uniformed "flight attendants," handed "boarding passes," and ushered into the ballroom foyer for cocktails. At 7:15, they entered the Grand Ballroom to the Tex Beneke orchestra's rendition of "Easy Street."

## **Introductions and Presentations**

After the first course, Phil Debaney, and Stephen Gill welcomed their guests and shared their reminiscences of the past 50 years.

M.C. took the stage with a few stories from the early days. He was presented with gifts, including a Trojan Horse tote



# Anniversary

## REALLY A BIG BASH!!



*Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Gill roll out the red carpet for their guests. M.C.'s Maseratti has become an anniversary party tradition.*

bag stuffed with goodies from his friends at USC, the three plaques and a sculpture pictured on page 9, and a USC Trojan Marching Band Helmet. It was a bit large but as the cover shows, M.C. finally got it in place. He was surprised with a letter that praised his pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit. It was signed, Bill Clinton!

### Entertainment Tonight!

Famed ventriloquist Ronn Lucas gave us a hilariously funny hour with a routine tailored especially for M.C. and his family, and the anniversary. Ray Hofsted, a caricaturist, delighted everyone with his true-to-life sketches.

Then, it was dancing the rest of the evening. M.C. moved from table to table greeting guests, including those from Boeing and Douglas, as well as the airlines... Alaska, United, Continental, Canadian, Qantas, Lufthansa, Swissair, Japan, Iberia, and Air France.

It Was One Helluva Party!!

*We note a special recognition to Ellen Gill (deceased) and her unswerving dedication which contributed mightily to the company's success and making this anniversary possible.*



In photos above: 1. Jose Luis Bonet, Iberia representative to Airbus Industrie; Norma and Ernesto Rodriguez, owners of United Aerospace Corp., the M.C. Gill sales agency for Central and South America; and Jose Sanz Bernardo, General Manager-Technical Planning/Purchasing, Iberia... 2. Anne and Gil Speed, Speednews, Gill is an M.C. Gill Corp. Director... 3. Dipl.-Ing. Heinrich Fuhr, Lufthansa, and son Mathias... 4. Paul Hurd, Boeing Materials Technology; Susan Brown, Buyer; and Sharon Romero, Buyer, all with Boeing... 5. M.C., Blossom and Irving Woolf, President, Woolf Advertising. Irving has played a major role in the production of the Doorway since 1975... 6. "Gillair" flight attendants await the arrival of our guests.





*The guests danced the night away to  
and his "Music in the*



**In photos above:** 1. Tom Umeda, Principal Engineer, Douglas, and Kiyomi Umeda; Dorothy Trabold and Ed Trabold, retired from Douglas... 2. Andrew DiGirgis, Procurement Specialist, Douglas, and Ana DiGirgis... 3. Joan and Ric Adkins, Purchasing Manager, QANTAS, with M.C.... 4. Jim and Chris Lefort, two of M.C.'s grandchildren, attended the gala with their mother Debaney... 5. Linda and Dante Garofani, Staff Engineer, United Airlines... 6. Greg Orloski, Group Leader and Steve Reno, Group Leader, both with Douglas... 7. Sandy and Ron Radecky, Materials & Process Engineer, Douglas; Larry Hopper, M.C. Gil's R&D Director, and Judy Hopper... 8. Hester Gil's daughters Carine and Annelize, and son Dirk.





In photos above: 1. Roland Lemoine, Purchasing Representative, Air France, and Elizabeth Lemoine... 2. Nacko and Scott Campbell, Engineer/Scientist Specialist, Douglas; John and Stacy Hazelwood, Maintenance Purchasing, United Airlines... 3. Gretchen and Kent Stepaniuk, owner of Pegasus Northwest... 4. Mike Nagy, Group Leader, Douglas, and Kelly Nagy... 5. Don Nelson, Old Mill Graphics, poses for caricaturist Ray Hofstedt... 6. M.C. with Mr. & Mrs. Jack Steele, member of M.C. Gill Corp. Board of Directors... 7. Greg and Cindy Walker, M.C. Gill Sales Representative; Clive Smith, Design Engineer, Castle Industries, and Sally-Anne Smith... 8. Tom Johnson, Purchasing, Sierracin/Sylmar and Dulcy Jenkins; Rob Ransley, Fleet Engineering, Canadian Airlines, and Linda Ransley.





*Ventriloquist Ronn Lucas and make the 50th Anniversary*



In photos above: 1. Ronnie Rotenberg and Ron Rotenberg, Business Unit Manager, Douglas; Toni and Jim Landeros, M.C. Gill Assistant Production Manager... 2. Lori and Tony Borromeo, DER, Douglas... 3. Ruth and Paul Lee of Lee, Sperling, and Hisarume, M.C. Gill Corp's accounting firm since 1958... 4. Alan Henderson, Process Engineer, Boeing; Larry Russell, M.C. Gill's OEM Sales Director; John Seitz, Operations Technology, Boeing... 5. M.C. with Henri Kuhn, Baltek (our balsa wood supplier since 1962)... 6. John Leloup, Purchasing, Alaska Airlines; Liz and Irv Freund, M.C. Gill Marketing Director... 7. Foreground, M.C. Gill, Francine and Leonard Silverman, Dean of USC's School of Engineering... 8. Part of the crowd enjoying Ronn Lucas' performance.





In photos above: 1. Kurt Meyer, Purchasing, Swissair, and John Burdick, M.C. Gill Production Scheduler... 2. Alan Webb, Douglas; George Boze, M.C. Gill Chief Estimator; Stephen Gill; Dennis Claypool, Group Leader, O.M. Purchasing, Douglas... 3. Peggy Fulgenzi, Purchasing, Continental Airlines, and Fred Fulgenzi... 4. Stephen and Linda Gill... 5. John Edinger, DuPont and Tony Borromeo, Douglas... 6. M.C. and daughter Debaney Gill Lefort... 7. Hester and M.C. Gill; Hans Zurbruggen, ZAP, one of M.C. Gill's sales agents in Europe... 8. Mike Daimyo, Nakano Aviation, M.C. Gill's sales agent in Japan; Hark Miyazawa, Director and Vice President, Japan Airlines, and Rie Miyazawa; Phil Nabeyama, General Manager and Treasurer, JAS Aircraft.





In photos above: 1. M.C.; Ahmed Sharabi, Yellow Sea Trading, one of M.C. Gill's Africa and Middle East sales agents; Bill Winterhalter, longtime glass cloth sales representative... 2. Brian Keeley, Branch Manager, Engineering, Douglas, and Jean Keeley... 3. Rennie and Robin Fulton, Senior Coordinator, Douglas... 4. Pete Ortega, Gill Senior Production Foreman with 41 years of service, and Evelyn Ortega... 5. Dean Lundberg, M.C. Gill's Quality Manager... 6. Khari Fulton, Gill Project Coordinator and Leigh Ann Silveira, Buyer, Douglas... 7. Vicki Kellogg and Norm Zuvich, Douglas... 8. Mark Hansen, Interior Systems Engineer, Douglas, and Alice Hansen... 9. Ivan McClanahan, M.C. Gill Production Manager and Paul W. DeGood, Gill Marketing Services Manager and Doorway Editor... 10. Camilo Capati, Gill's Senior Chemist with 21 years of service, and Erlinda Capati; Rafael Navarro, Gill's Senior Production Foreman with 29 years service, and son Andre... 11. Irv Freund and Margaret Castle, owner of Castle Industries... 12. Lou Schwind, Senior Engineer, Boeing; and Becky Schwind... 13. Jane Anne Webb, Lead Engineer-Interiors, United Airlines and Ken Brown... 14. Ric Ruhman, Purchasing Coordinator and Lee Ann Farino, Systems Integrity, both with Douglas; Shirley Turner, Gill Sales/Customer Service... 15. Ron Katje, Group Leader, Douglas, and Judy Katje... 16. Dave Anderson, Gill Senior Sales Representative, and Doris Anderson... 17. Virginia and Joe Valdez, retired Senior Production Foreman with 45+ years of service... 18. John and Candi Burdick, Gill Production Scheduler and Gill Sales/Customer Service respectively... 19. Javier Anriola, Gill Senior Production Foreman with 25 years service, and daughter Yamille... 20. Linebacker M.C. with traditional USC jersey whose number corresponds with the appropriate anniversary.

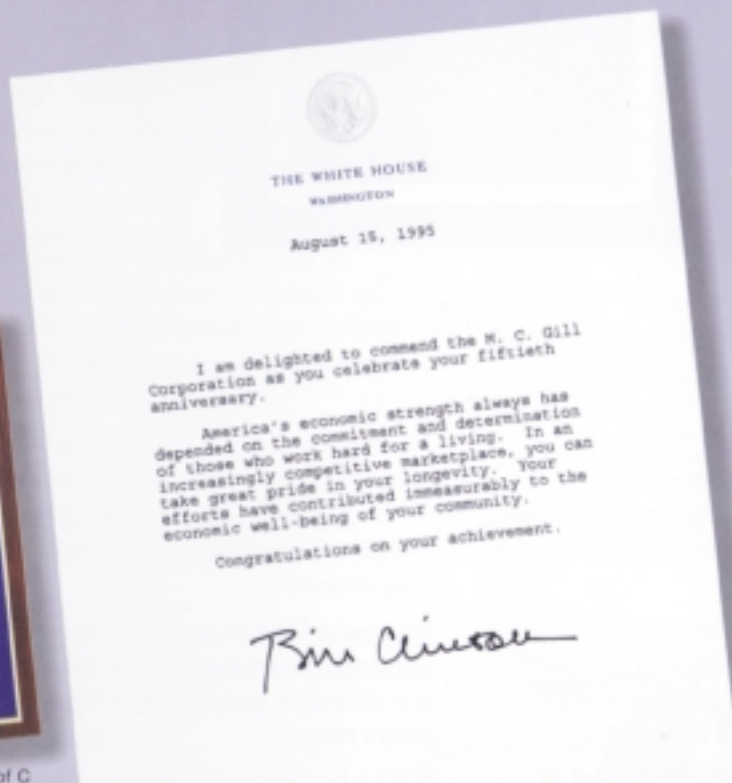


# M.C. GILL'S 50<sup>th</sup> GETS WIDE RECOGNITION

In addition to the many cards and other remembrances congratulating our 50 years in business, the plaques and letters shown below were presented at the anniversary party. We sincerely thank those who took the time to acknowledge our accomplishment.



WOOLF ADVERTISING



EL MONTE C of C



CLARK-SCHWABEL, INC.



DU PONT



A renowned  
sports-writer  
writes about  
his friend and  
company founder  
M.C. GILL



*Mel Durslag, retired syndicated sports columnist for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner and Los Angeles Times, and long-time acquaintance of M.C. Gill, has graciously consented to share some of his memories of M.C. and the company. Mel had a secret to reveal to M.C.—a matter dating back to their first encounter more than four decades ago.*

**It is  
1951**

a year the debut in the majors of Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays would be overshadowed by an event of more earthly concern.

Down on his luck, a plastics purveyor named M.C. Gill, whose products are unaccountably ignored by a thankless world, comes up with an idea that would revolutionize neighborhood baseball in America.

The game is called Balsa-Corkball, featuring a ball of plastic-coated cork and a bat of standard size, but made of balsa and weighing but eight to twelve ounces. The bat was originally dubbed the "Featherweight Slugger" but subsequently, renamed the "Balsa Bomber" after a certain Louisville, KY firm engaged in the manufacture of bats objected to use of the word "Slugger."

With these implements, the game would require no protective gear, and, smashed against a pane of glass, the ball would rebound, leaving the window intact.

M.C. is outlining this wonder invention to an eager listener, namely, your correspondent, then writing for the Los Angeles Examiner.

"I just paid for two windows falling victim to batting practice in the yard," I tell M.C.

"Your troubles are over," he assures me. "I am sending you a Balsa-Corkball set."

In today's piety, one working for a newspaper couldn't accept such largesse. All one is allowed under today's rules is to write about sex orgies, murder, and drug encounters.

But dispatching an artful feature article on Balsa-Corkball, I sit back to watch the press work its marvels as a sales tool, and it soon follows that balsa-corkball enters into rest.

What a break for its inventor. Returning his energies to the plastic corporation bearing his name, M.C. Gill would build a monument to himself and his progeny. The company is now enjoying a half-century of life. It is the oldest and largest family owned manufacturer of high performance structural laminates and sandwich panels in the world, showing a sales volume of \$30 million a year or more.

"In the realm of industrial giants," says Gill, "this isn't much. But we feel it is big for the special orbit in which we move."

Fifty years isn't a longevity record in American business, but it isn't a flyspeck, either. How has Gill been able to pull the string that long?

"I wouldn't want to call it genius," he says. "But I would be giving myself the worse of it if I called it luck. At some time or another, everyone has luck. The idea is





to be ready when it comes. I have made a lot of mistakes in business, but I never lost confidence in myself. I always felt that, given a half-decent chance, I could make the play. Happily, we are not hanging on here. We are gaining, sometimes in spurts."

M.C. is still making the play today—at the frisky age of 85. He serves as board chairman.

M.C. doesn't believe in outside shareholders. The company is owned wholly by the Family Gill, i.e., M.C. and his three children.

For M.C., it all began in Terril, Iowa, a hamlet reposing in the northwest part of the state, where his father, Carl E. Gill, operated the town's only pharmacy, fully equipped with soda fountain.

He operated it, what's more, for 57 years, selling out in 1959 for the grand sum of \$3500. He had ridden it to the top in 1926, and, by 1959, had ridden it to the bottom.

"The only argument I ever recall having with my father," says M.C., "was at the age of 19. I told him he wasn't charging enough for some of his products at the drug store."

The elder Gill listened respectfully, explaining only that he was charging a fair price, albeit lower than what he could get in a monopoly situation.

He was, as you can see, a unique merchant. He also was fascinated by the entrepreneurial enterprise of a son—an only child—who operated a multitude of businesses that included a pool room in the basement of the Gill home. During the summer, at a nearby lake, he took orders for fish from vacationing cottagers—and then went out and caught the fish.

In this manner, he never was stuck with inventory, eliminating the worst of marketing fears. At times, though, the sun long had set before the fish cooperated enough for M.C. to fill his orders.

Then, in a cerebral explosion one day, a young M.C. decided to buy a white face ringtail monkey, feeling an entertainment market existed for such a performer.

If M.C. found the monkey entertaining, the rest of Terril didn't. M.C. didn't monkey around. He got rid of the monkey, reaching a conclusion from which he never wavered. Livestock was a bad investment. Anything that eats is a bad investment.

For that matter, he doesn't invest in real estate, grain futures, or precious metals, either. And does he borrow money?

"Just once," he recalls. "In 1954, I went to the bank to borrow \$2,000. From the interrogation I got, I was made to feel not like a guy borrowing money from the bank, but sticking it up. I haven't borrowed money since."



How, then, has the M.C. Gill Corporation survived a half-century in an industry in which competitors have come and vanished like passing ships?

"We try hard not to take ourselves seriously," says M.C. "But we run a serious company. By that I mean, we



never challenge customers to seek an alternative supplier. We know it isn't hard to find one.

"We try hard to please the customer. We are customer oriented. We are punctual. We are willing to tackle tough problems. We are committed to turning out a good product, to be sold at a profit. A philosophy that might describe us best is, "We try hard enough to make it happen."

"Do you mean you don't embrace the Olympian spirit that all that counts is taking part?"

M.C. smiles thinly. "Money has never been vital to my life," he answers. "But, in the eyes of the business world, the carbonation comes from profit. It is the strange gauge by which success is measured—not success as a human, but success as an entrepreneur."

Employees of the company ascribe a major part of its success to the stable nature of their leader. Gill is a creature of quiet routine, apologetic today because, at 85, his work week comprises but 44 hours.

"Since I had back surgery in 1993," he says, "I have cut down to 44 from 50. But I am hoping to go back to my old schedule."

While countless changes have been made over the years in his products and in management techniques, M.C. is an individual who otherwise resists change.



He has done business with the same bank since 1940. He has used the same gasoline company since 1939. He has lived in the same house since 1964. And he used the same barber from 1960 until 1992 when, in an act of treachery, the barber retired.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, where he majored in chemical engineering, M.C. has attended USC football games regularly since 1940.







He has driven the same cars more than two decades. On alternate days, he drives to work a 1972 SM Citroen and a 1974 Maserati Khamsin, both, by now, collectors' items.

"I have never found a reason to change just for the sake of changing," he says. "If I found the need for a 1995 car, I would buy one, just as I would buy a yacht, a plane and a home in the south of France. I don't buy things to make social statements."

In the smallish, but award winning home he occupies in Pasadena, he employs no live-in help, just weekly workers who come and go. And, each day, he packs a lunch to work in a brown bag, noting proudly it's a designer model of sturdy canvas.

It was reported of H.L. Hunt, the late oil baron, that he packed his lunch and drove an old Plymouth to his office in Dallas. He would circle the block several times, searching for a free parking space rather than yield to the lots.

And, of course, it is an established fact that Howard Hughes wore rumpled clothes and drove a beaten-up Chevy, comfortable in the obscurity it afforded him.

But Gill doesn't see himself as an eccentric; merely one pursuing his life in a manner he feels makes the most sense and in a fashion consistent with his mid-America upbringing.

One might say, conservatively, he lives far below his means, to which, actually, he gives little thought.

He prefers to see himself as a pioneer and entrepreneur, nimble in his calling of making products and selling them to customers whose confidence he seeks and sustains.

Not long ago, the company consummated a \$40 million contract (over three years) of Nomex® honeycomb to Boeing, one of its largest customers. It was the biggest single deal of his business span, dating back to 1945 when he started his first operation in a rented garage.

"But I didn't begin at the bottom," he says. "It was a two-car garage built in 1917 to house two Model T Fords with an additional 2-car slab for expansion."

Known on marquees at the time as Peerless Plastic Products, Inc., Gill's firm began with a capitalization of \$7,000, plus an additional \$10,000 advanced by various investors not able to resist a good thing.

In no time at all, the work force at Peerless inflated to six, only to retrench to one—Gill—when customers made the discovery, incredibly, they could live without the products Peerless dispensed.

Things got so critical that M.C. was forced to take a job on the side at Aerojet, rewarding him with \$400 a month.

But, with good humor, he plugged away, remembering he had survived a ringtail monkey in Terril, and, before long, he had captured enough business to shift his operation from his garage to a quonset hut, offering him the luxury of 2,000 square feet under roof.

It was then that the magic name of Peerless Plastic Products, Inc. vanished from the scene, leaving a corporate void hard to fill.

An in its place came M.C. Gill Corporation, which would bag from Douglas Aircraft a \$60,000 order, restoring, at least temporarily, the company's pulse.

For that matter, it restored M.C.'s too.







Later pursuing a \$250,000 order from Douglas, which needed fiberglass reinforced plastic sheets for 83 DC-6C cargo planes it was building for the Navy, Gill found himself bucking a tough competitor, bidding for the same contract.

When Douglas decided to split the order between the two, the miffed competitor imposed on the aircraft firm a 5 percent price hike.

And, minding his own business, M.C. soon found himself with the whole contract. The competitor learned, as Gill always lectured, that challenging a customer to find another supplier can be very dangerous.

M.C. Gill Corporation never looked back. It directed its profits from Douglas to new equipment, and eventually, it would do well enough to move, in 1960, to the plant in north El Monte it now occupies on a thoroughfare called—if you can believe this—Easy Street.

Beginning modestly in a 400 square foot garage, the Gill operation would expand gradually to its present size of 170,000 square feet. With the Nebraska installation, Gill working footage today totals 211,713 square feet, a statistic not as surprising to M.C. as his age.

"A guy 85 shouldn't really be around," he muses. "But it is hard for me to believe I'm that old. I like to feel I have all my marbles and I am heartened by the fact that my father lived to 91 1/2—and his mother lasted until 99."

Fastidiously, since 1928, M.C. has kept a diary.

"What kind of material do you enter?" he is asked.

"Mainly things touching my life and that of others in this society," he answers. "When I wake up each morning, I write notes on things pertinent to what happened the day before."

"Guys 85 aren't supposed to remember things from the day before," he is reminded.

"Thankfully, that isn't my case," he replies, "proof of which is the things appearing in that diary really happened. I make notations on current events. I outline my opinions and I jot down my plans. I began doing a diary in high school and I guess I'm lucky I'm still here to keep it going."

Which, of course, suggests the observation of George Burns, honored recently at a country club banquet.

"I'm happy to be here tonight," said George. "At 99, I'm happy to be anywhere."

Gill has never joined a country club for reasons you quickly will find logical.

"I don't play golf," he says, "and I don't play cards. If I did, a round of golf would take four hours and gin rummy afterwards two hours more. That's a time luxury I can't indulge. I have too much respect for the competition."

There is no proof, besides, that entertaining a client at golf solidifies relationships. Frustrations developing





during the game, in fact, can lead to animosity, club-throwing and cussing.

And do you know how many golf companions have been pushed into the lake? And how many dents have been kicked in the sides of their cars?

"Many of the buyers we deal with are engineers," says Gill. "They aren't the kind of people who appreciate



the hale and hearty and backslapping approach. They want to know what kind of products you turn out, how promptly you deliver them and whether you understand their problems.

"The cycle begins with the airlines selling enough seats to create a demand for planes. And we respond to the plane builders by helping them supply the demand. They are under pressure and they count on us for assistance that is reliable."

How does one survive 50 years of industrial battle?

"It's like walking through a mine field," says M.C. "One false step and it can blow you apart. But I have found the first quality you must have is a stomach for rejection. No one is going to step up to the plate and bat 1,000. When you are turned down, you keep coming back. My favorite quotation is attributed to Disraeli, who once said, 'You can judge the caliber of a man by how much it takes to discourage him.'"

"The next thing you had better have is the ability to laugh at yourself. If you can't do that, your life in business is going to get pretty frustrating."

"I have also found in sales that you can't make it unless you pick the right customers. It is incumbent upon you to judge the companies you supply and decide which ones are going to last and which ones aren't. The best customer is the one who stays around as long as you do."

M.C. also recommends a smart and patient wife.

"If you have a level-headed mate," he says, "she will serve the vital function of reminding you of your mortality, preventing cerebral inflation. And lastly, you must have vision, without which you will wander aimlessly and none of the foregoing advice will matter."

The rise and the staying power of M.C. Gill Corporation is, understandably, a matter of pride to the chairman, who doesn't see himself as an industrial mammoth, but as one owing it to his Muse to create.

What he has created is a success in the precinct in which he operates, and, observing him, one tends to ask whether he could pull it off for another 50 years.

"It would be fun to try," he answers. "But if I could, I could promise you the money wouldn't matter. My excitement in this thing has been the hunt."



You tend to believe this, but you still remind him of the ancient prophet who told the world that while it is no shame to be poor it is not an honor, either.

Today, on the occasion of the M.C. Gill Corporation's 50th anniversary, we feel obligated to reveal to M.C. the final disposition of the balsa-corkball set he sent us in 1951.

During a hot game in the street, the ball rolled down a storm drain, and, trying to retrieve it with the bat, the little ball player in our house lost that, too.

The era of balsa-corkball has ended. It is a tribute to the spirit of M.C. and his biographer that both of us survived it.



# NEWS FLASH

The M.C. Gill Corporation is pleased to announce that it has qualified eleven different types of flooring panels to Boeing Commercial Airplane Group specifications.

**Gillfloor 4417**, Ty I through VI and drawing 6515779, Ty V, unidirectional fiberglass reinforced epoxy facings bonded to a Nomex® honeycomb core, is now qualified to Boeing's **BMS 4-17**.

**Gillfloor 4409**, Ty II and III, unidirectional carbon

reinforced phenolic facings bonded to a Nomex honeycomb core, is now qualified to Boeing's **BMS 4-20**, 4409 is the first low-smoke flooring panel qualified at Boeing.

**Gillfloor 5424**, Ty I and II, fiberglass reinforced epoxy facings bonded to an aluminum honeycomb core, is now qualified to **BMS 4-23**.

*The Winter 1996 issue of the Doorway will provide additional information on these qualifications.*

## THE FUNNY SIDE

The following are excerpts from reports of car insurance policy holders describing their particular accidents:

"Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."

"The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention."

"A pedestrian hit me and went under my car."

★★★★

"I don't like the bucket seats in my new car," complained the buyer. "Perhaps you have the wrong size bucket," replied the dealer.

★★★★

One of our colleagues claims he doesn't need a car alarm. To discourage thieves, he just leaves the repair estimates on the dash.

★★★★

A man loaned a friend \$5,000 for plastic surgery. He complains that he was never repaid and, what's worse, now he doesn't even know what his friend looks like.

★★★★

Never buy a TV from a man who's out of breath.

★★★★

Variety may be the spice of life, but it's the monotony that finances it.

★★★★

Time is a great healer, but plastic surgery is quicker.

★★★★

If pro is the opposite of con, is Progress the opposite of Congress?

★★★★

A small boy grabbed his coat and boots, and asked his mother, "Can I go outside and help Dad put the snow chains on the car. I know all the words."

## Trivia

A rye plant can have a root network of about 380 miles

★★★★

1,455 people were injured playing pingpong in the U.S. in 1993.

★★★★

Ted Turner's land holdings in the West are two-and-a-half times larger than Grand Teton National Park.

★★★★

The cost of developing and growing the sod used for the World Cup soccer matches in the Pontiac, MI, Silverdome was \$2,400,000. Its life span was 50 days.

★★★★

In 1993, there were two paramedics on duty at the speed-eating contest at Castroville, California's Artichoke Festival.

★★★★

J. Edgar Hoover, Walt Disney, Dwight Eisenhower, John Glenn, Norman Vincent Peale, M.C. Gill and H. Ross Perot were all paperboys.

★★★★

Lemon juice is antiseptic.

★★★★

People who shampoo their hair daily don't get bursitis.

★★★★

A praying mantis only has one car.

★★★★

No Libyan river flows year round.

★★★★

New Zealand has no snakes

★★★★

Egyptians invented scarecrows.

★★★★

Mozart spoke 15 languages.

★★★★

There were 2,000 participants in the Nude Chili Cookoff held in Devore, California in 1993.